**TEAM WASHINGTON**

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# Homeland Security Update

*"Ensure a safe and secure Washington for the 21st Century"*

**February 2005**

Washington State Emergency Management Division which I joined about six months ago, is blessed with a dedicated, talented staff. EMD has a critical mission, or set of missions. Since my arrival on the scene, I have observed an unending stream of challenges to the workload capacity of EMD. Other state agencies and of course, local government emergency managers have also experienced this relentless pressure to produce more and more with little or no additional assistance. I once heard a colleague suggest that government was "the business of allocating increasingly diminishing resources for absolutely critical purposes." I think that is a fair description of our current situation in this state.

It also seems to be a fair description of conditions around the country. As I write this, I have just finished attending the National Emergency Managers Association mid year conference. While I have been talking about tsunami, my colleagues worry about other hazards. Though specific hazard concerns vary from region to region, we all address our respective challenges bolstered by the Emergency Management Performance Grant. We all share the responsibility to plan and promote homeland security measures to thwart or minimize the impact of a terrorist attack. We all chafe at the federal initiatives that create work but no one to do the work. We are all concerned that the time-honored elements of emergency management – mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery – once more have to be defined and tied together. The new word in the emergency management lexicon, prevention, merits careful

*Jim Mullen – Washington State Director of Emergency Management*

definition these days as well. Four years ago, prevention was nearly redefined as mitigation. It is not mitigation. Now, prevention is being intertwined philosophically with preparedness. It is not preparedness.

Why are these words so important? For one thing, funding decisions at the federal level may hinge on the proper understanding of these words, and what they represent to a state's readiness, or even a nation's. For another, the national strategy for all hazards preparedness, to be understood, requires proper placement of these terms. Unless we define what we do repeatedly to elected officials in Congress, someone else with perhaps a different perspective will define us, whether we like it or not.

Some of the answers to our major concerns can be resolved in Congress, but others beg for local, regional and state resolution. We can look to our collaborative processes to make them more inclusive, more efficient, more precise. Where a subcommittee lies untended, it should be shored up or shelved for another time when its work will merit and command the proper attention. And we need to resolve to assess the processes that have been established to make certain that we are actually receiving the necessary input, and informing the necessary decisions. We need to support prevention initiatives without ceding the importance of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

As EMD Director, I have a particular obligation to shine a bright light on the work of my municipal and county emergency management colleagues. We don't have a problem with professionalism, or competence, in emergency management in Washington, but we will have to step up to the obligation to solve our resource problems at all levels.

I am certain that as we proceed through the next few months, we will answer some of these questions, and new ones will emerge. It will be an interesting journey, and I am excited to be able to accompany my state and local colleagues on this difficult path. At the end there will be no pot of gold, but if the citizens of Washington are safer and better prepared as a result of our efforts, that will be a sufficient reward for us.

**EMD** Washington Military Department Emergency Management Division

## Regional Homeland Security Coordination Districts (RHSCD)
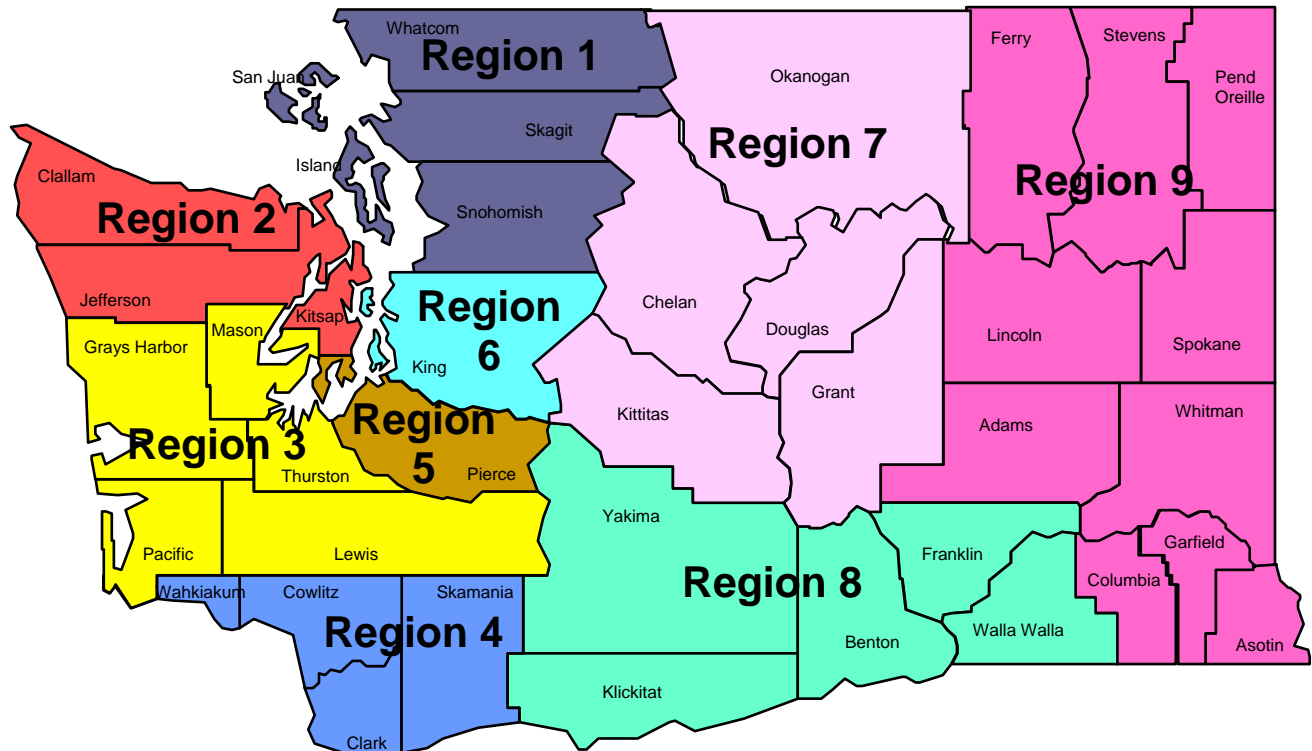


[1]Note: These coincide with Local Health Regions for Public Health Emergency Planning and Coordination

## Region 1

### Ready when disaster calls
### Snohomish County has 1,500 volunteers prepared for crises



*By Katherine Schiffner*
*Herald Writer*

SNOHOMISH - Judy Himmelhaver's neighbors say if the Big One hits, they're heading to her house.

Himmelhaver, 47, has a three-day supply of food, a fire extinguisher and training to help in an emergency. She's one of about 1,500 volunteers in Snohomish County prepared to respond if disaster strikes. The county has the most emergency-ready volunteers in the state and

**Michael V. Martina / The Herald**
Esther Walla, vice principal at Northshore Christian Academy, practices with a fire extinguisher

one of the highest numbers in the country, said Chris Colmore, county Department of Emergency Management's program and training coordinator.

Volunteers receive eight weeks of free Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT, training, a community program created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Classes teach how to respond to everything from fires to earthquakes. Businesses, schools, churches and neighborhood groups have received CERT training.

Firefighters and police say volunteers will be a key source of aid during a large-scale disaster. Neighborhoods may be on their own for up to three days then, Colmore said.

The disaster training prepares volunteers "to provide immediate care for themselves and the community," she said. "That frees up rescuers to focus on the areas they're needed most."

Himmelhaver and some other CERT volunteers will go door-to-door in their neighborhoods and give disaster reports to firefighters and police.

She also volunteers at the county's emergency operations center when rivers flood. She urged more people to get the training.

"I didn't realize there were so many disasters in our community," she said. "When you talk to people whose lives are affected, you get a whole new understanding."

Nicholette Sigler and her son, Alexander, 12, of Marysville are taking the CERT class at Northshore Christian Church in Everett.

"If something happens, we wanted to be able to help, not just sit there and watch the TV wondering what we could do," she said.

They teamed up to practice using a fire extinguisher, dousing a small pan of flames as CERT trainer Nathan Trauernicht of the Marysville Fire Department watched.

"It was pretty exciting," Alexander said. "I'm glad I learned how to do it."

Northshore Christian principal Holly Leach brought her daughter, husband and some of the school's teachers to the class.

"You never know what hazards you're going to encounter or how you'll be called to help," she said. "This is a wonderful opportunity to help my family and the school prepare."

Valley View Middle School teacher Tom Ryan agreed. He's taught CERT classes to about 200 students in the past four years.

The training has already helped some former students, he said. One used a fire extinguisher when a firework landed in her back yard.

"It leaves students more aware of what they can do to help their neighbors, their family or the school district during a true emergency," Ryan said.

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For more information please contact: Snohomish County DEM Roger Serra, Roger Serra (425) 423-7635 or Region 1 Homeland Security Coordinator Nancy Franze (425) 423-7635, nlfranze@snodern.org

## Region 2

Region 2 has been focusing a great deal recently on the interoperable communications portion of their strategic plan and also the preparation for their upcoming full-scale bio-terrorism training exercise.

Jefferson County just completed installation of 32 Mobile Display Terminals (MDTs) in the Sheriff vehicles as part of the 2004 LETPP grant execution in support of increasing interoperability.

The Region 2 Exercises and Design Team is meeting with the ODP contractor (EG&G) to finalize plans for the March full-scale bio-terrorism exercise.

For more information please contact: Kitsap County DEM Phyllis Mann, (360) 307-5870, Region 2 Homeland Security Coordinator John Szymanski (360) 307-5878, jszymans@co.kitsap.wa.us

## Region 3

Region 3 held the final CERT training class on January 18, 2005, for thirteen City of Olympia employees. The final class was a disaster simulation that gave the participants the opportunity to practice hands-on, what they learned in their previous classroom CERT training. We had nine volunteers that assisted us by being victims, or providing safety overview.

The group of thirteen participants divided up into three groups and rotated to 3 different mock disaster stations:



- The "fire" station. This station had a real (contained) fire, where participants were expected to determine the correct fire extinguisher to use and to extinguish the fire. Professional firefighter, David Young, manned the fire station.

- The "Med Ops" station. This station was located in the front portion of a very large, dark warehouse, where several victims of various levels of injury were located. The participants were to locate and provide triage.



- The "Search & Rescue" station. This station was located in the back portion of the dark warehouse. Participants had to use their flashlights to search for the two mannequins that were trapped under heavy debris. The participants used leveraging and cribbing techniques to "rescue" the mannequins.

The after action review conducted with the participants showed the unique benefits of experiencing a hands-on practical exercise, to test their capabilities and performance, based on the classroom instruction previously received. The participants walked away with a high level of confidence, knowing that if called upon, they could utilize the skills learned from the CERT class in a real life disaster situation.

For more information please contact: Homeland Security Region 3 Coordinator, Shelley South (360) 704-2779 or (360) 701-7586 or souths@co.thurston.wa.us.

## *Region 4*

- Region IV will dedicate a major portion of the FY05 SHSP grant funds to a region-wide Communications Interoperability Project

- First WMD Awareness Train-The-Trainer (AWR 160-1) course graduated 50 "New ODP-approved" trainers a mix of disciplines and from all four counties. The course was held at the Northwest Regional Training Center (NWRTC) in Vancouver. These new trainers will now roll out the WMD Awareness (Direct Delivery) classes – AWR 160 – in all corners of Region IV.

- Another WMD Awareness Train-The-Trainer (AWR 160-1) course is scheduled for 24/25 March 2005 at the NWRTC and that class is also filling up fast.

- A RAD-Course is scheduled at the NWRTC for 21-24 March; first day is Awareness Training, second day Train-The-Trainer course, and the last two days are Operational Training.

- WASABE IV 2005, Full-Scale Bioterrorism Exercise: Design Team meets bi-weekly. The implementation of this exercise hinges upon the extension of the end date for E04-315 past 31 March 2005.

- In preparation for the Statewide Full-Scale Bioterrorism exercise in May, Skamania County held a Mass Clinic Workshop on 05JAN to review and adjust implementation plans for mass treatment.



*Region IV Volunteers in Training*

- A RAD-Tabletop Exercises was held in Skamania County in January

- Skamania County also held a DECON Training class on 15JAN for their volunteer firefighters. Classroom discussions preceded the hands-on set-up and actual operation of their DECON equipment.

- Skamania County and Clark County will have Functional Exercises in March.

For more information please contact: Clark County DEM Tom Griffith (360) 737-1911 ext. 3951 or Region 4 Homeland Security Coordinator Ernie Schnabler (360) 737-1911 (ext 3950) and ernestus.schnabler@clark.wa.gov

## *Region 5*

**Training Strategy In Region 5 and Lessons Learned to Share**

Provide WMD Awareness training to First Responders as defined in Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-8 with the data from a regional threat assessment which was conducted in Fall 2002. Such training was delivered by a cadre of 47 trainers from multiple disciplines, agencies, and jurisdictions across Region 5. Classes were offered as integrated or discipline specific; some were scheduled monthly and others were provided on an as-requested basis. Training locations were spread across the Region.

**2004 Summary**
- Trained 1,078 First Responders between April and December 2004 using a cadre of 47 trainers.
  - 32 of those were from non-reimbursable groups (community colleges, military, state employees)
  - 93 of the 1,078 were trained to the "defensive level" in more advanced classes

| | |
|---|---|
| AWR-101: TTT Emerg Response to Terrorism-24 hrs | 61 |
| AWR-100: Emerg Response to Terrorism-8 hr | **\*924** |
| PER-211: EMS Ops and Planning for WMD-24 hr | 31 |
| PER 224: CAMEO Application | 1 |
| PER-230: Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings-4 hr | 57 |
| PER-251: TTT Emerg Response to Terrorism: Operations-24 hrs | 4 |

  **\*represents about 20% of total trained across the nation in 2004**

- All disciplines were represented

| By Total Combined Classes Available | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class | LE | EMS | EM | FS | PW | HC | PH | Total |
| Trained Apr-Dec 2004 | 429 | 25 | 104 | 335 | 114 | 20 | 51 | **1078** |

72 agencies / jurisdictions were represented
- Some of the larger agencies developed individual processes to train their personnel:
  - Pierce County Sheriff's Dept used integrated trainer concept with groups of about 20 at one central location separate from a precinct location.
  - Central Pierce Fire & Rescue used combination of integrated and discipline specific classes at their facility.
  - Tacoma Fire Dept used WMD Trainers from TFD and trained in groups of 50.
  - Pierce County Public Works trained on a Saturday in groups of 50. The Traffic Division trained in groups of 20.
  - The dispatch centers trained during modified class times to accommodate workers.
  - Sumner, University Place, Fife, Steilacoom and others offered community integrated classes to bring their own responders together.

**What Has Worked Well**
- Concept of "Integrated" classes. The value of integrating the training among disciplines came to light in the first TTT class. There was great dialog.
- Model of "community integrated classes" – pulling together one community's First Responders into a class.
- Using two trainers from two different disciplines to teach the classes. It is considerably easier on the trainers and provides students two varied perspectives and teaching styles. The trainers also seemed to enjoy learning from each other.

- Having electronic fill-in registration forms for individuals as well as discipline-specific requests.  It has made it easier administratively for people to e-mail these items to us. Hard copies are also available.
- Establishment of a Training Reimbursement Process with associated forms for an agency to complete.
- Establishing a webpage where the course information and forms can be posted: http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/abtus/ourorg/dem/BasicConcepts.htm

For more information please Tom Symonds, Region 5 Homeland Security Coordinator, (253) 798-7842 or tsymond@co.pierce.wa.us

## Region 6
## Region tends to security a project at a time

**By Ashley Bach, Seattle Eastside Bureau**

Allen Patterson has an 80-foot antenna in his back yard and a separate room set aside for his ham-radio equipment. And he's ready to fight terrorism.

He's among a group of Eastside radio hobbyists set to take the reins of $60,000 worth of radios for the new Bellevue City Hall, which will open next year. The small black boxes, bought with federal money, are designed to send signals to police and firefighters if a terrorist attack knocks out phone lines or other radios.

KEN LAMBERT / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Clockwise from left: Allen Patterson, Jon Williams, Thomas Edmonds and Harry Warner gather at the Bellevue Police Annex, which will be home to the Eastside Amateur Radio Support Group. In a terrorist attack or other disaster, the radio enthusiasts will help keep Bellevue communications open.

Patterson is a retired electrical engineer who puts his ham-radio call sign - KC7SYR - in red lettering on his business card. He relishes the idea of using his hobby to help protect national security.

"This is something that amateur radio has done throughout its history," he said. "If you're going to become a radio ham, it's just understood you're going to help out."

The radios and the people who use them are among the many ways that Puget Sound cities are using millions of dollars of federal homeland-security money that has been streaming into regional governments since Sept. 11, 2001.

Cities and other government agencies in King County alone have gathered at least $56 million since 9/11. Slightly more than half of the money has gone to agencies other than the city of Seattle.

The awards can seem disproportionate in some smaller cities. Nationally, some officials in the largest cities, including Seattle, have said the money is being spread among less-populated areas that wouldn't seem to be primary targets for international terrorists.

Locally, officials in smaller cities acknowledged that they have tended to focus on their own internal-security issues when applying for grants, while keeping regional concerns in mind.

"You are always going to have a Richland or an Issaquah or a Longview that's going to say, 'What if something happens here? We need the money, too,' " said T. Dave Chavez Jr., the grants manager for the Seattle Police Department.

"Those are good concerns and they are valid." he added.

The money is funding a variety of projects, from satellite phones in Renton and better locks at Redmond fire stations to improved security at the Cedar River Watershed, which supplies drinking water to Seattle.

Medina Police Chief Jeff Chen applied for a $109,000 mobile police station last year; a 20-member King County security council that divvies up much of the federal money agreed with his pitch.

The mobile station is about 35 feet long, sort of a high-tech motor home equipped with radios to talk to neighboring cities in case Medina's station on Lake Washington is knocked out. Medina also could lend the mobile station to other cities, Chen said.

"This is a piece of equipment that our city sorely needed for quite some time," he said.

After all, President Bush has visited twice in the past two years, and Bill Clinton and Nelson Mandela have stopped by. The city of 3,000 people has many residents, including Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates, who could be targets, Chen said.

Issaquah, with a population of 15,510, has received about $105,000, officials said. About $50,000 will go to protecting the city's drinking water, another $50,000 for communications equipment and $5,000 for ham radios.

Even if the money doesn't go directly toward helping in a terrorist attack, the added safety will help in other emergencies, such as storms or earthquakes, said Bret Heath, the city's operations director for public works.

So far, Bellevue, population 116,500, has received about $2.6 million, including $564,000 for computers in police cars and fire engines, $416,000 for traffic cameras and video equipment meant to help clear roads in emergencies, and $185,000 for an armored bomb-squad vehicle.

The city will use some of the money to address regional safety issues, through its regional police-and-fire-dispatch center and by allowing other cities to use its new equipment, officials said.

To the north, Snohomish County has received more than $6 million in homeland-security money since 9/11 and has used it to pay for such items as gas masks, mobile communication vehicles, a three-day terrorism drill and a bomb-squad robot.

Yesterday, a county committee agreed to buy a fireboat and approved protective rescue equipment, a generator for the Snohomish Health District and improved body-identification technology for the county medical examiner.

In King County, future grants will be based more strictly on regional needs, county officials said.

Though cities can, in some cases, apply directly to the federal government, most of the homeland-security money for individual cities is sent first to the state and then to a county security council to parcel out the awards.

In King County, the security council passed a 147-page plan in December that lists the region's security goals, such as preventing attacks and improving communication between cities, and will guide where the money goes.

So rather than cities grabbing for a piece of the pie, the decisions are filtered through a more collaborative process, said Eric Holdeman, King County's director of emergency management.

"We're maturing," he said. "We're growing and learning together as a region."

*Ashley Bach: 206-464-2567 or abach@seattletimes.com*

## Homeland-security money

Here is a list of amounts promised to some King County cities and other agencies since Sept. 11, 2001. In some cases, the amounts may not be comprehensive, because some cities received money directly from the federal government rather than through a county security council.

| City | Population | Amount |
|---|---|---|
| Bellevue | 116,500 | $2.6 mil |
| Bothell | 30,930 | $42,740 |
| Carnation | 1,900 | $5,300 |
| Duvall | 5,550 | $9,060 |
| Issaquah | 15,510 | $105,000 |
| Kenmore | 19,170 | $35,670 |
| King County government & Public Health - Seattle & King County | 1.78 mil | $8.7 mil |
| Kirkland | 45,800 | $631,520 |
| Medina/Hunts Point (combined) | 3,450 | $122,840 |
| Mercer Island | 21,830 | $20,000 |
| Muckleshoot Tribe | | $15,290 |
| Overlake Hospital | | $29,000 |
| Port of Seattle | | $241,140 |
| Redmond | 46,900 | $35,320 |
| Renton | 55,360 | $173,130 |

| Homeland-security money | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Here is a list of amounts promised to some King County cities and other agencies since Sept. 11, 2001. In some cases, the amounts may not be comprehensive, because some cities received money directly from the federal government rather than through a county security council. | | |
| Sammamish | 36,560 | $230,600 |
| Seattle | 572,600 | $27.6 mil |
| Shoreline | 52,740 | $105,470 |
| Snoqualmie | 5,110 | $32,000 |
| Woodinville | 9,920 | $15,420 |
| Sources: King County Region 6 Security Council, state Office of Financial Management, various cities | | |

To access the Region 6 Homeland Security Strategic Plan and to find other links and resources to prepare homes, families, and businesses for hazards in Washington State, visit www.metrokc.gov/prepare.

### *Region 8*



# REGION 8 NEWS

Region 8 Homeland Security held their functional exercise on February 3, 2005. The county EOC's in Benton, Franklin, Klickitat, Walla Walla, and Yakima Counties were activated for this event including the participation of the Yakama Nation. All the local hospitals and health departments also participated. It was a well planned and successful test of our procedures.

**Bioterrorism Tabletop with Health Districts**
Walla Walla County and Yakima County both held tabletops with their health districts in preparation for the Functional Exercise.

**Walla Walla CERT**
On January 10th we began two separate SERT (Student Emergency Response Team) Training events in Walla Walla. It is the same program of instruction and training as CERT, but modified to fit middle and high school students. The youth respond better with shorter classes and more hands on. This training is being done at the Community Center for Youth in Walla Walla and Pioneer Middle School as an after-school program.



On February 23 both these CERT groups will have their final exercise, a disaster simulation. A total of 30 students will finish the training.

Pioneer Middle School in Walla Walla will add SERT in as an elective credit class in the fall. Garrison Middle school and the Youth Center will have after school classes again in the spring.

**Benton-Franklin CERT:** Training is going wonderful. We are conducting additional training this month and our next session of CERT Training is in Connell, WA in March. Also, Benton-Franklin CERT will be holding a CERT Train-the-trainer on March 12-13, both days from 9-4 p.m.



**Yakima County**

Yakima -County Wilber Ellis Chemical Fire Grandview Washington    January 26, through 28, 2005

On January 26, 2005 approximately 1230 hours a fire broke out at the Wilber Ellis Chemical Storage Facility **** Wine Country Road in Grandview Washington. Over the next three days nearly 200 responders, support, and command personnel dealt with many issues. A fire smoldering inside a building spewing clouds of thick grey and black smoke with unknown properties, A half mile circle evacuation of 300 to 400 residents, the potential of evacuating over 6000 residence if the situation deteriorated, the lack of available resources to mitigate the problem, long term sheltering and feeding of evacuated residents, food for responders, and incident command personnel. The team dealt with the long term closure and detour of Interstate 82 the main highway transiting the county. The site alone presented three days of level A Personnel Protective Equipment operations with the associated decontamination issues. There were over 35 different departments, agencies or jurisdictions that provided some type of support to the operation. There were personnel and fire trucks from nearly every fire department in the county.

The incident brought clearly to light the need for planning and training for large long term events. Incident Command was established early and helped immensely with the management of the event. As with most events of this nature communications was an issue. This was not necessarily an equipment or frequency issue. It had to do with the process that is used to distribute information within an incident command structure. Overall the event is a success.

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Credit for this must be laid at the feet of the emergency response personnel and the clear county wide support effort put forth to mitigate the problem.  The lessons learned by many from this event will be fruitful and long lasting. The scene was turned over to a contractor NRC Environmental Services hired by Wilber Ellis Friday afternoon February 28, 2005 for clean up.

## *Region 9*

Region Nine continues to meet on a monthly basis. Region Nine is actively engaged with all our community partners to enhance our planning, equipment, exercise and response capabilities.

- Planning - Jurisdictions have completed their individual plans and assessments. Region Nine is finalizing the strategic plan based on those plans and assessments. We are making changes to those plans based on lessons learned, after action reports and improvement plans from workshops, drills and exercises conducted. Our planning efforts includes our neighbors in Idaho and Canada.
- Equipment - Spokane County has been building redundancy in their HazMat, SWAT, Bomb Squad and Urban Search & Rescue capabilities to respond regionally. Spokane is building a Regional Mobile Command Post for multi- jurisdiction, multi-discipline response. The rest of the region is working primarily on updating their communication infrastructure. The region has purchased Web E.O.C. and will be installing the primary server in Spokane with  the back up in Newport in March 05.
- Training - Our region has sponsored a N.I.M.S. workshop and an  Emergency Operations Center Course last quarter. Region nine will host a AWR 160-1 C.B.R.N.E. Awareness Level Train - the - Trainer course on 22 & 23 Feb.  05 in Spokane. The region is developing a training strategy for the coming year. Region nine participated in a successful rural E.M.S. educational grant process. This grant awarded to Inland Northwest Health Services in conjunction with Region Nine, Spokane County E.M.S., Washington State D.O.H., Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Alaska allows us to broadcast E.M.S. education  via video conferencing,  to remote sites in over 60 locations. it is planned to expand this to C.B.R.N.E., N.I.M.S., and other lecture type training.
- Exercises - Region Nine is working with DOH, the National Disaster Medical System, Disaster Medical Assistance Team, the military, American Red Cross, Nineteen (19) Region Nine Health Care Facilitates, Three (3) North Idaho Health Care Facilities, Public Health, Air & Ground Ambulance, Fire Service, Law Enforcement, A.R.E.S./R.A.C.E.S., volunteer groups & other community partners for a forward of patients full scale exercise in March 2005. The region is working with State EMD and the Canadians for a Cross Border tabletop exercise in June 2005. Several public health exercises will be held throughout the Spring of 2005.  We are working closely with and will be participating with public health, hospitals and E.M.S. in these exercise requirements.

For more information please contact:  Dave Byrnes, Region 9 Homeland Security Coordinator at DBrynes@spokanecounty.org and 509-477-7606

## Team Washington - Building Partnerships Throughout the State

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## *Emergency Management Conference Slated for April*

The 2005 *Partners in **Emergency Preparedness Conference*** will be held April 19 and 20, 2005.   The largest and most successful regional emergency preparedness conference in the Pacific Northwest, *Partners in Emergency Preparedness* annually hosts over 500 people representing business, schools, government, the non-profit sector, emergency management professionals and volunteer organizations.  The conference is presented through a partnership between the Washington State Emergency Management Division and the Seattle Chapter of the American Red Cross; and is sponsored by local business interests including Perkins Coie, Audience Central, Seattle Public Utilities and Puget Sound Energy.

Guest speakers and lecturers will present a wide variety of topics including:  Crisis Communications; The Future Threat of Terrorism; Infrastructure Resiliency; Large Scale Computer Attacks and Virtual Joint Information Centers to name just a few.  Also offered this year will be an Active Shooter Tabletop Exercise and ATC-20:  Post-Earthquake Evaluation of Buildings.  Featured this year as plenary speakers, Slade Gorton and Major General Timothy Lowenberg will address conference attendees Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively.

The *Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference* provides an excellent opportunity for individuals to network with others from throughout the state and to learn from those who have dealt with crises within the state or at the national level.  Attendees also have the opportunity to speak with numerous vendors, learning what is new in emergency response equipment and technology.

Conference registration is now open.  Registration includes all concurrent and general sessions, all conference materials, two lunches and the networking reception on Tuesday, April 19, 2005.  Registration by March 1, 2005 is $225.00; by March 30 it is $275.00; and after March 30, $375.00.  The two day conference will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bellevue, Washington.  For more information, or to register for the Conference, please call Washington State University Conferences and Professional Programs at 800-942-4978 or visit the Conference website: http://capps.wsu.edu/emergencyprep

For more information please contact: Lisa Scott, Bellevue (WA) Fire Department, 425-452-7923

## **2004 Emergency Response Guidebook Online**

The *2004 Emergency Response Guidebook* published by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of Hazardous Materials Safety is now available online. The publication offers a shortcut through layers of government that regulate the 800,000 daily hazardous shipments in the United States. It is primarily a guide to aid first responders in quickly identifying the specific or generic classification of the material(s) involved in an incident and protecting themselves and the general public during the initial response phase. The guidebook is updated every three to four years to accommodate new products and technology. [*View guidebook*]

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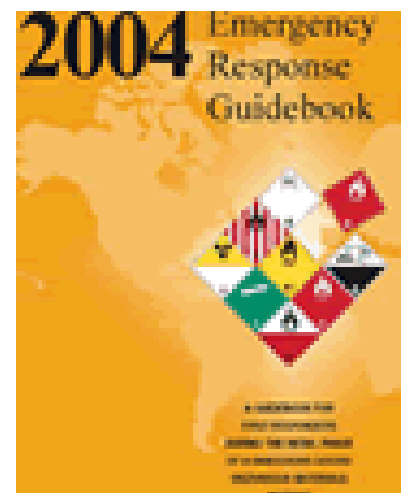
# _Department of Health program provides help during chemical incidents_

An important part of responding to a chemical terrorism event or a chemical incident may involve the collection and analysis of clinical specimens from persons potentially exposed to an unknown chemical. To help first responders and others with this task, the Washington State Department of Health established its Chemical Incident Response Program. The program offers:

- Training for clinical laboratories and local health jurisdictions on proper specimen collection, specimen packaging, shipping, and transport.
- Consultation and assistance with clinical specimens during an incident and direct assistance with specimen packaging.
- Analysis of specimens to confirm the presence or absence of a chemical agent in people who may have been exposed.
- Planning and support for local, state, and regional emergency response to chemical incidents/terrorism events.

## What the program will do for you during a chemical event

Upon request, the program will provide assistance in obtaining laboratory analysis of clinical specimens from persons exposed to an unknown chemical.

Because Chemical Incident Response staffs are not licensed for collection of clinical specimens, they will not accompany first responders into the field or assist with specimen collection. However, they will provide consultation regarding acceptable specimens and specimen collection receptacles and assistance in the packaging of specimens for transport to designated laboratories upon request. Protocols and training for the collection, packaging and transport of chemical terrorism event clinical diagnostic specimens are available upon request.

The Washington State Public Health Laboratory will analyze samples or direct analysis by another qualified laboratory.

## To get more information

For more information about the Chemical Incident Response Program contact:
Dr. Nathan Lacy (206-418-5520, Nathan.Lacy@doh.wa.gov)
Trace Warner (360-236-3387, Trace.Warner@doh.wa.gov)
Dr. Cate Franklin (206-418-5643, Catherine.Franklin@doh.wa.gov)
Blaine Rhodes (206-418-5476, Blaine.Rhodes@doh.wa.gov) or
Chuck Hughes (206-418-5483, Charles.Hughes@doh.wa.gov).

For more information about the Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEPR) program go to http://www.doh.wa.gov/phepr/

## To report a suspected chemical terrorism or industrial unknown chemical event Call 1-877-485-7316. For after-hours assistance, the team's emergency pager number is 360-709-4203.

# *Responding Safely to Suspicious Substances*

Do you believe that you have adequate protocols in place to respond to          suspicious substances safely and according to state guidelines?  Have you been looking for resources to help refine those protocols?  9/ll and the anthrax attacks made us more aware of the threat of bioterrorism and increased the potential risk of responding to hazardous substance or "white powder" reports. The key to protecting everyone involved is to develop clear protocols for responding to such reports and providing training based on those protocols for all who need it.



*Chemists analyzing samples at state Public Health Laboratories*

## Agencies that should have hazardous substance protocols and training

Most state, county, and local government agencies should have protocols for notifying law enforcement or other responders when they encounter a suspected hazardous substance. All law enforcement and HazMat agencies should have protocols for responding to hazardous substance reports.

## Agencies that can help with protocol writing and training

- Federal Bureau of Investigation (Seattle)
- Washington Department of Health Public Health Laboratories
- Local Health Jurisdictions
- Washington State Patrol (SWAT)

## What should suspicious substance protocols include?

*For all agencies:*

- Requesting assistance from HazMat or Washington State Patrol SWAT and your Local Health Jurisdiction.

*For first response agencies:*

- Steps to determine if a threat is credible. Include contacting law enforcement and FBI.
- Reducing exposure to victims and providing assistance.
- Conditions requiring evacuation.
- Obtaining contact information for all evacuees for public health follow-up.
- Screening methods and use of forensic sampling methods prior to packaging.
- Following the chain of custody procedures for samples.
- Methods for ensuring that samples are packaged safely per DOH guidelines prior to transport.
- Obtaining approval from their Local Health Jurisdiction to transport samples to the Public Health Laboratories.

## Resources for training

- "Procedures for Suspicious Envelopes, Packages, and Powder"—A training video for county, state, and local government officials and others that explains who to notify when a suspicious substance is discovered and the steps that will be taken in response. The video

was produced by the Washington State Public Health Laboratories in collaboration with law enforcement and HazMat agencies. It is available in VHS or DVD formats through Local Health Jurisdiction or can be requested through phl.training@doh.wa.gov.

## Resources for developing law enforcement and HazMat response protocols

- The September 2, 2003, "Update for First Responders" entitled, "Procedures for Suspicious Envelopes, Packages, Powder, Information Bulletin"-- Washington State Department of Health (DOH), and

  "Specimen Packaging and Transport Protocol for Suspected Bioterrorism Incidents"—DOH handout. Both publications will soon be available on the Department of Health Web site www.doh.wa.gov/phepr.htm

- "Model Procedures for Responding to a Package with Suspicion of a Biological Threat" — International Association of Fire Chiefs http://www.iafc.org/downloads/suspicious_packages.pdf

- "Guidance on Initial Responses to a Suspicious Letter/Container with a Potential Biological Threat" —FBI, DHS, HHS/CDC http://www.bt.cdc.gov/planning/pdf/suspicious-package-biothreat.pdf

- "Technical Assistance for Anthrax Response"—National Response Team, http://wetp.org/Wetp/public/dwloads/HASL_334dnlfile.PDF

- "Guidelines for Responding to a Chemical Weapons Incident"—Domestic Preparedness Program of the U.S. Army http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/army/sbccom_chem_response.pdf

- "Risk Assessment of Using Firefighter Protective Ensemble with Self-contained Breathing Apparatus for Rescue Operations During a Terrorist Chemical Agent Incident" —U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command http://www.mipt.org/pdf/ffpe_scba_rescue_ops.pdf

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## *FFY05 Homeland Security Grant Update*


U.S. Department of Homeland Security

On January 16, 2005 Washington Military Department's Emergency Management Division submitted an application for FFY05 Homeland Security funding. These funds are being allocated by Department of Homeland Security to enhance the capacity of state and local agencies to prevent, respond and recover from incidents of terrorism, particularly those involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive incidents through coordinated training, exercises, equipment acquisition and technical assistance.

The State is expected to receive this award in March or April 2005.

*Funding Summary:*
State Homeland Security Grant Program $21,211,105
Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program $7,713,129
Citizen Corps Program $269,275
Urban Areas Security Initiative $11,840,034
Urban Area Security Initiative Non-Profit $153,978
Emergency Management Performance Grant $3,459,280
Metropolitan Medical Response System $682,776

State Homeland Security Grant Program funds will be allocated using a formula incorporating a regional base, population allocation and risk allocation. The regional allocations are as follows:

| Region | Regional Allocation |
|--------|---------------------|
| Region 1 | $1,985,269 |
| Region 2 | $ 936,220 |
| Region 3 | $1,342,014 |
| Region 4 | $1,435,360 |
| Region 5 | $1,743,776 |
| Region 6 | $4,247,914 |
| Region 7 | $1,265,759 |
| Region 8 | $1,569,787 |
| Region 9 | $2,241,449 |

Allocations for the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program and the Citizen Corps Program have not been fully vetted through the Committee on Homeland Security, Emergency Management Council, Domestic Security Executive Group and the Governor. More information will follow in the next newsletter update.

For more information, please contact Arel Solie, EMD Acting Homeland Security Section Manager at a.solie@emd.wa.gov.

For more information, please contact Arel Solie, EMD Acting Homeland Security Section Manager at a.solie@emd.wa.gov.                    *Index*

# The Committee on Homeland Security (CHS) Infrastructure Protection Sub Committee (IPSC)

What is it and what does it do?  The Infrastructure Protection Sub-Committee (IPSC) was established and held its first meeting in July 2004.  It is composed of public and private sector subject matter experts representing the 13 Critical Infrastructure Sectors and 4 Key Resource areas identified in the *Washington Statewide Homeland Security Strategic Plan*.  The IPSC also has representation from Washington State Emergency Management Association (WSEMA), Washington State Homeland Security Regions (WSHLSR), Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC), Washington State Emergency Management Division (EMD), and a number of Advisory members with expertise in risk and vulnerability assessment and other areas.

The Sub-Committee is specifically charged to identify and map the critical infrastructure of the state.  To do this the IPSC uses the definition of Critical Infrastructure provided in the *Washington Statewide Homeland Security Strategic Plan. "*Critical Infrastructure" often referred to as CI, is defined as

**Critical Infrastructure Sectors**

**Agriculture & Food**
**Banking & Finance**
**Chemical & Hazardous Materials**
**Defense Industrial Base**
**Emergency Services**
**Energy**
**Information Technology**
**National Monuments & Icons**
**Postal & Shipping**
**Public Health**
**Telecommunications**
**Transportation**
**Water**

**Key Resource Areas**

**Dams**
**Commercial Assts**
**Government Facilities**
**Nuclear Power**

those systems and assets – both physical and cyber – so vital to the States, Localities and the Nation that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating impact on national, state and local security, economic security, and/or public health and safety.

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The sub-committee meets monthly prior to the Committee on Homeland Security and is presently working on an infrastructure database design and development program, assessment and security issues, and is aggressively working to develop critical infrastructure selection criteria for each of the 13 Critical Infrastructure Sectors and 4 Key Resource areas identified in the *Washington Statewide Homeland Security Strategic Plan*. The IPSC reports its activities, timelines, and progress monthly to the CHS for feedback, guidance, and approval.

For more information please contact: Jeff Parsons, Washington Military Department Emergency Management Division at 253.512.7065 or j.parsons@emd.wa.gov .

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# *Terrorist Threat?*
# *Emergency Management – Better Prepared Than You Think !*

How difficult would it be for terrorists to produce a South Asia size tsunami that claimed over 150,000 lives and billions in property damage? For the moment, don't consider the psychological aspects of a terrorist event, but only the physical damages. Isn't the damage mechanism likely to be radiological, chemical, biological, flooding, fire, or hazardous materials? Aren't these the same hazards that we, in Washington State, consider and plan for on a daily basis? Beyond the creation of the NRP and NIMS, former Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge, advocated an "all hazards" approach to improve the Nation's security.

State, county, and local emergency management professionals assess the vulnerabilities and risk to their populations that these hazards pose and formulate effective strategies for mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. So what's new - perhaps only the media image of a masked group with AK-47s and box cutter knives? The personification of "terrorism" is the psychological threat. If we leave the prevention to Law Enforcement, we can concentrate on what we are very good at – an all hazard approach to emergency management.

It is time to reaffirm that our primary mission is to protect from all hazards, including possible terrorist-generated events, the lives, economy, environment, and property of the citizens of Washington. Terrorist-generated events remain possible, but events involving fires, floods, earthquakes, and chemical spills are certain to occur. Keep a broad perspective and keep up the good work.

For more information please contact Ed Quarles, Washington Military Department Emergency Management Division, at 253-512-7058 or e.quarles@emd.wa.gov

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## President's FY 2006 Department of Homeland Security Proposed Budget

## Overall FY 2006 Budget Highlights

Among the entities with significant budgetary increases are Immigration and Customs Enforcement with a 13.5 percent increase and the U.S. Coast Guard with an increase of more than nine percent.

The budget includes the establishment of the **Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO)**. The DNDO will develop, acquire and support the deployment and improvement of a domestic system to detect and report attempts to import, assemble, or transport a nuclear explosive device, fissile material or radiological material intended for illicit use.  The DNDO will be located within DHS and will be jointly staffed with representatives from DHS, the Department of Energy, the Department of Defense, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), with coordination between the Department of Justice, Department of State, intelligence community, and other departments as needed.

The budget proposes to consolidate the various DHS screening activities with the formation of the **Office of Screening Coordination and Operations (SCO)** within the Border and Transportation Security (BTS) directorate.  This new organization would enhance terrorist-related screening through comprehensive, coordinated procedures that detect, identify, track and interdict people, cargo and other entities and objects that pose a threat to homeland security.  This effort to integrate existing resources to work more efficiently, brings together several similar ongoing screening efforts under one office, including: United States-Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT); Secure Flight and Crew Vetting; Free and Secure Trade (FAST); NEXUS/Secure Electronic Network for Travelers Rapid Inspection (SENTRI); Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC); Registered Traveler; Hazardous Materials Trucker Background Checks; and Alien Flight School Checks.

The effectiveness of state and local homeland security assistance can be increased through an approach that closes the most critical gaps in terrorism prevention and preparedness capabilities.  Over $2 billion in grants for states and urban areas would be based on assessments of risk and vulnerability, as well as the needs and priorities identified in state and regional homeland security plans.  The proposed **Targeted Infrastructure Protection program** would provide $600 million in integrated grants, enabling DHS to supplement state, local and regional government efforts in their protection of critical national infrastructures such as seaports, mass transit, railways, and energy facilities.

In FY 2006, DHS seeks to **consolidate the research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E)** activities within the DHS Science and Technology (S&T) directorate.  This consolidation, in the amount of $127 million, will bring the scientific and engineering personnel and other RDT&E resources of the Department under a single accountable authority.

The Department requests $49.9 million to begin to establish a regional structure for DHS and integrate and identify efficiencies within information technology, facilities, and operations centers across DHS.  Of the 22 agencies that were brought together to form the Department, twelve have regional and field structures ranging in size from three to thirty offices distributed throughout the nation.

Aviation security is a shared responsibility of the federal government, airports, airlines and traveling public.  Airport screening, one element of aviation security, benefits passengers and air carriers by protecting them from threats.  These costs should be borne primarily by the beneficiaries of screening services.  The budget proposes raising the fee on a typical one-leg ticket from $2.50 one way to $5.50. For passengers traveling multiple legs on a one-way trip, that fee would increase from the current maximum of $5.00 to $8.00.  Fees cover nearly the full cost of aviation screening operations.

The President remains committed to ensure America welcomes the contributions of immigrants.  The budget continues funding for the President's multi-year $540 million initiative enabling U.S. Citizenship

and Immigration Services to reduce the backlog of applications and ensure a six-month processing standard for all applications by the end of 2006.

The budget revolves around five major themes: **Revolutionizing the Borders; Strengthening Law Enforcement; Improving National Preparedness and Response; Leveraging Technology; and Creating a 21st Century Department.**

## Revolutionizing the Borders

·        **Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Detection Technology** is an integral part of the DNDO comprehensive strategy to address the threat of nuclear and radiological terrorism.  The budget includes $125 million to purchase additional Radiation Portal Monitors (RPMs) and pilot advanced next generation RPMs to detect both gamma and neutron radiation at our borders.

·        The **Container Security Initiative (CSI)**, which focuses on pre-screening cargo before it reaches our shores, will have a preventative and deterrence effect on the use of global containerized shipping of WMD and other terrorist equipment.  Egypt, Chile, India, Philippines, Venezuela, Bahamas and Honduras have been identified as pilots for screening in FY 2006.  An increase of $5.4 million over FY 2005 is included in CBP's budget for CSI, for a total request of $138.8 million.

·        **CBP Targeting Systems** aid in identifying high-risk cargo and passengers.  The budget includes a total of $28.3 million for these system initiatives, which includes a $5.4 million increase.

·        **America's Shield Initiative (ASI)** enhances electronic surveillance capabilities along the northern and southern land borders of the U.S. by improving the sensor and video surveillance equipment deployed to guard against the entry of illegal aliens, terrorists, WMDs and contraband into the U.S.  The budget includes $51.1 million, an increase of $19.8 million.

·        **US-VISIT**, which is proposed for consolidation within the SCO, increases from $340 million to $390 million.  The increase will provide for the accelerated deployment of US-VISIT at the land borders and enhance access for border personnel to immigration, criminal and terrorist information.

·        The **Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT)** focuses on partnerships all along the entire supply chain, from the factory floor, to foreign vendors, to land borders and seaports.  The budget includes an increase of $8.2 million, for a total amount of $54.3 million.  The increase will enhance our ability to conduct additional supply chain security validations.

·        **Border Patrol Staffing** would increase along the southwest border and coastal areas, in part to replace some Border Patrol agents shifted to the northern border as required by the Patriot Act.  An increase of 210 agents and $36.9 million is included in the budget for the Border Patrol.  This increases the Border Patrol Agents to 10,949.

·        **Long Range Radar** technology is used by the Office of Air and Marine Operations to detect and intercept aircraft attempting to avoid detection while entering the U.S.  CBP and the Department of Defense will assume responsibility for operating and maintaining these systems from the FAA beginning in FY 2006.  CBP's share is $44.2 million in the budget.

## Strengthening Law Enforcement

·        The **Armed Helicopter for Homeland Security Project** increases by $17.4 million in the budget.  These funds will provide equipment and aircraft modifications to establish armed helicopter capability at

five USCG Air Stations.  This will provide the USCG and DHS with the tools needed to respond quickly and forcefully to emergency maritime threats.  A total of $19.9 million is included in the budget for this project.

· The **Integrated Deepwater System** increases by $242 million to a total of $966 million in FY 2006 to continue the acquisition of the USCG's Maritime Security Cutter–Large, complete design of the Maritime Security Cutter–Medium, promote completion of the Multi-Mission Cutter Helicopter (re-engineered and electronically upgraded HH-65 helicopter) and significantly improve fixed and rotary wing aircraft capabilities.  These upgrades will increase awareness and are crucial for an integrated, interoperable border and port security system.

· The **Response Boat-Medium Project** increases the effort to replace the USCG's 41-foot utility boats and other large non-standard boats with assets more capable of meeting all of the USCG's multi-mission operational requirements by $10 million.  A total of $22 million is proposed in the budget for this effort.

The **Federal Air Marshal Service (FAMS)** seeks a total of $688.9 million.  This funding will allow ICE to protect air security and promote public confidence in our civil aviation system.

**Detention and Removal** within ICE increases by $176 million for detention and removal activities.  Total increases for this program are approximately 19 percent above the FY 2005.

· **Temporary Worker Worksite Enforcement** increases will more than double the resources available for worksite enforcement including employer audits, investigations of possible violations and criminal case presentations.  An increase of $18 million is in the budget.

**Federal Flight Deck Officers (FFDO)/Crew Member Self-Defense (CMSD) Training** is increased by $11 million in FY 2006 for a total of $36.3 million.  This allows for the expansion of the semi-annual firearm re-qualification program for FFDO personnel and to fund the first full year of the CMSD training program.

## Improving National Preparedness and Response

· **Federal assistance for our nation's first responder community**.  The budget includes $3.6 billion for grants, training, and technical assistance administered by the Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP).  This funding will support state and local agencies as they equip, train, exercise, and assess preparedness for emergencies regardless of scale or cause.

**Enhanced Catastrophic Disaster Planning** is budgeted at $20 million for FEMA to work with states and localities, as well as other federal agencies, to develop and implement plans that will improve the ability to respond to and to recover from catastrophic disasters.

· The **Office of Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC)** within the S&T Directorate will allow the Department to expand its leadership role in interoperable communications that could be used by every first responder agency in the country.  The OIC has currently identified three program areas: communications, equipment, and training.  With $20.5 million in FY 2006, the OIC will plan and begin to establish the training and equipment programs, as well as continue existing communication interoperability efforts through the SAFECOM Program.

· Replacement of the USCG's **High Frequency (HF) Communications System**, funded at $10 million in the budget, will replace unserviceable, shore-side, high power high frequency transmitters, significantly improving long-range maritime safety and security communications.

· The **Rescue 21** project is funded at $101 million in the budget to continue recapitalizing the Coast Guard's coastal zone communications network.  This funding will complete system infrastructure and network installations in 14 regions and begin development of regional designs for the remaining 11 regions.

## Leveraging Technology

- **Low Volatility Agent Warning System** is a new FY 2006 initiative totaling $20 million. Funding is included to develop a system that will serve as the basis for a warning and identification capability against a set of chemical agents whose vapor pressure is too low to be detected by conventional measures.

- **Counter-MAN Portable Air Defense Systems (C-MANPADS)** funding is increased by $49 million to a total of $110 million in the budget. This program will continue to research the viability of technical countermeasures for commercial aircraft against the threat of shoulder-fired missiles.

- **Cyber Security** is enhanced in the budget to augment a 24/7 cyber threat watch, warning, and response capability that would identify emerging threats and vulnerabilities and coordinate responses to major cyber security incidents. An increase of $5 million is proposed in the budget for this effort, bringing the program total to $73.3 million.

- **Secure Flight/Crew Vetting** requests an increase of $49 million to field the system developed and tested in FY 2005. The funds will support testing, information systems, connectivity to airlines and screen systems and daily operations. This also includes an increase of $3.3 million for crew vetting.

- The budget includes $174 million to complete installation of **High Speed Operational Connectivity (Hi-SOC)** to passenger and baggage screening checkpoints to improve management of screening system performance.

- **Emerging Checkpoint Technology** is enhanced by $43.7 million in FY 2006 to direct additional resources to improve checkpoint explosives screening. This assures that TSA is on the cutting edge, ahead of the development of increasingly well-disguised prohibited items. This proposed increase will result in investing more than $100 million invested in FY 2005 and FY 2006 for new technology to ensure improved screening of all higher risk passengers.

- **Homeland Secure Data Network (HSDN)** includes $37 million in the budget. These funds will streamline and modernize the classified data capabilities in order to facilitate high quality and high value classified data communication and collaboration.

- The **Homeland Security Operations Center (HSOC)** funding is increased by $26.3 million bringing its FY 2006 funded level to $61.1 million. This includes an increase of $13.4 million for the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) and an increase of $12.9 million to enhance HSOC systems and operations.

## Creating a 21st Century Department

- **Electronically Managing enterprise resources for government effectiveness and efficiency** (**eMerge²**) funding of $30 million in the budget to continue implementation of a DHS-wide solution that delivers accurate, relevant and timely resource management information to decision makers. By delivering access to critical information across all components, the Department will be able to better support its many front-line activities.

- **MAX** $^{HR}$ funding of $53 million is to continue the design and deployment of a new human resources system. As outlined in final regulations, issued jointly on February 1, 2005, by Secretary Ridge and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Kay Coles James, the MAX$^{HR}$ system provides greater flexibility and accountability in the way employees are paid, developed, evaluated, afforded due process and represented by labor organizations. The goal is a 21st century personnel system that enhances mission-essential flexibility and preserves core civil service principles and the merit system.

- The **Information Sharing and Collaboration** (ISC) program will affect the policy, procedures, technical, process, cultural, and organizational aspects of information sharing and collaboration, including coordinating ISC policy with other federal agencies, drafting technical and operational needs statements, performing policy assessments and analyzing new requirements. The total funding for FY 2006 will be $16.5 million.

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## The National Incident Management System

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The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and the NIMS Integration Center have released a Web-based self-assessment system that will allow federal, state, tribal and local departments and agencies evaluate their incident preparedness and response capabilities.  The voluntary system, the National Incident Management Compliance Assessment Support Tool, or NIMCAST, will also help users determine what they need to do to comply with National Incident Management System (NIMS) requirements.

"NIMCAST is a valuable tool that will allow organizations to evaluate and monitor their progress in implementing NIMS," said Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response. "But it's more than just a technical assessment system. It also will help the federal government target NIMS improvement strategies in areas where there is the greatest need."

Although the NIMCAST is a permission-based system, anyone may access the site and use the NIMCAST "Demo Assessment" to work through topics, descriptions and questions associated with all of the primary NIMS categories. Users may also download the complete assessment tool, chapter by chapter, in pdf, "read-only" format. NIMS points-of-contact for each of the FEMA Regional Offices were trained on the use of the system in mid-January. They will in turn provide NIMCAST training to state contacts.

NIMCAST may be accessed via the NIMS home page at www.fema.gov/nims, or directly at www.fema.gov/nimcast. For more information about NIMS and NIMCAST e-mail the NIMS-Integration-Center@dhs.gov, or call 202-646-3850.

### The National Incident Management System Capability Assessment Tool

*Is composed of the following topics and has a demonstration assessment to help familiarize.  The tool also has a user's guide, fact sheet, glossary, acronym key and the NIMS document on the website to help users.*

## I. Introduction and Overview

Chapter I of the NIMS provides an introduction and outlines the concepts and principles that serve as a foundation for the NIMS. Chapter I also outlines the components that make up the core of the NIMS. Chapter I does not, however, contain specific requirements for compliance with NIMS and therefore is not included in the capabilities assessment. To review this chapter of the NIMS, please see the complete NIMS document in the Resources window on the left of your screen.

## II. Command and Management (DEMO)

Describes the systems used to facilitate domestic incident command and management operations, including the ICS, multi-agency coordination systems, and the Joint Information System (JIS).

## III. Preparedness (DEMO)

Describes the specific measures and capabilities that jurisdictions and agencies should develop and incorporate into an overall system to enhance operational preparedness for incident management.

## IV. Resource Management (DEMO)

Resource management involves coordinating and overseeing the application of tools, processes and systems that provide incident managers with timely and appropriate resources during an incident.

## V. Communications and Information Management (DEMO)

Effective communications, information management, and information and intelligence sharing are critical aspects of domestic incident management. Establishing and maintaining a common operating picture and ensuring accessibility and interoperability are principal goals.

## VI. Supporting Technologies

Technology and technological systems provide supporting capabilities essential to implementing and continuously refining the NIMS. These include voice and data communications systems, information systems, and display systems. These also include specialized technologies that facilitate incident operations and incident management activities in situations that call for unique technology-based capabilities.

## VII. Ongoing Management and Maintenance

Chapter VII outlines the concepts, principles, structure, and responsibilities of the NIMS Integration Center (NIC). As per HSPD-5, Management of Domestic Incidents, the NIC ensures the ongoing management and maintenance of the NIMS. The NIC is a multi-jurisdictional, multidisciplinary center that includes mechanisms for regular consultation with other Federal Departments and agencies; State, local, and tribal incident management entities; emergency responder and incident management professional organizations; and private-sector and nongovernmental organizations. Chapter VII does not contain widely applicable requirements for compliance with NIMS and therefore is not included in the capabilities assessment. To review this chapter of the NIMS, please see the complete NIMS document in the Resources window on the left of your screen.

For information regarding the NIMS, you may contact the NIC at the following address:
NIMS Integration Center
500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20472
(202) 646-3850
NIMS-Integration-Center@dhs.gov or web page: www.fema.gov/nims
web page: www.fema.gov/nims

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> Local contact is: Washington Military Department Emergency Management Division, Paul McNeil at 253-512-7033 or p.mcneil@emd.wa.gov and Jim Kadrmas at 253-512-7027 and j.kadrmas@emd.wa.gov

## *National Response Plan*

### *What it does for America.*

The National Response Plan establishes a comprehensive all-hazards approach to enhance the ability of the United States to manage domestic incidents.  The Plan incorporates best practices and procedures from incident management disciplines—homeland security, emergency management, law enforcement, firefighting, public works, public health, responder and recovery worker health and safety, emergency medical services, and the private sector—and integrates them into a unified structure.  It forms the basis of how federal departments and agencies will work together and how the federal government will coordinate with state, local, and tribal governments and the private sector during incidents.  It establishes protocols to help protect the nation from terrorist attacks and other natural and manmade hazards; save lives; protect public health, safety, property, and the environment; and reduces adverse psychological consequences and disruptions to the American way of life.
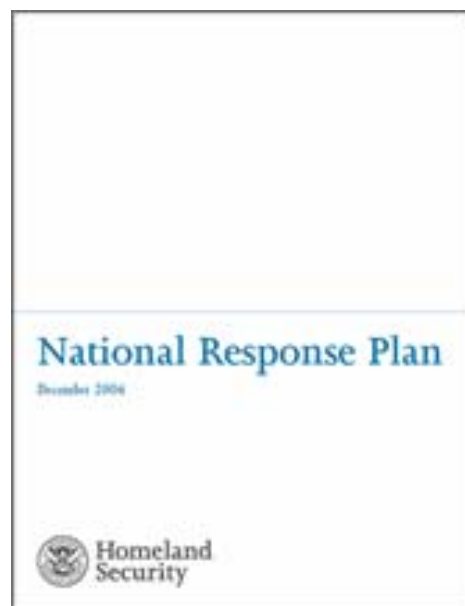
### *National Response Plan Incident Management Priorities*

- Save lives and protect the health and safety of the public, responders, and recovery workers.
- Ensure security of the homeland.
- Prevent an imminent incident, including acts of terrorism, from occurring.
- Protect and restore critical infrastructure and key resources.
- Conduct law enforcement investigations to resolve the incident, apprehend the perpetrators, and collect and preserve evidence for prosecution and/or attribution.
- Protect property and mitigate damages and impacts to individuals, communities, and the environment.
- Facilitate recovery of individuals, families, businesses, governments, and the environment.

### *Emphasis on Local Response*

- The Plan identifies police, fire, public health and medical, emergency management, and other personnel as responsible for incident management at the local level.
- The Plan enables incident response to be handled at the lowest possible organizational and jurisdictional level.
- The Plan ensures the seamless integration of the federal government when an incident exceeds local or state capabilities.

### *Timely Federal Response to Catastrophic Incidents*

- The Plan identifies catastrophic incidents as high-impact, low-probability incidents, including natural disasters and terrorist attacks that result in extraordinary levels of mass casualties, damage, or disruption severely affecting the population, infrastructure, environment, economy, national morale, and/or government functions.
- The Plan provides the means to swiftly deliver federal support in response to catastrophic incidents.

## *Multi-agency Coordination Structure*

- The Plan establishes multi-agency coordinating structures at the field, regional and headquarters levels.
- These structures execute the responsibilities of the President through the appropriate federal departments and agencies.
- These structures provide a national capability that addresses both site-specific incident management activities and broader regional or national issues, such as impacts to the rest of the country, immediate regional or national actions required to avert or prepare for potential events, and management of multiple incidents.

## *New Coordinating Features in the National Response Plan*

- **Homeland Security Operations Center (HSOC).**
  The HSOC serves as the primary national-level multiagency hub for domestic situational awareness and operational coordination. The HSOC also includes DHS components, such as the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center (NICC), which has primary responsibility for coordinating communications with the Nation's critical infrastructure during an incident.
- **National Response Coordination Center (NRCC).**
  The NRCC, a functional component of the HSOC, is a multiagency center that provides overall federal response coordination.
- **Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC).**
  At the regional level, the RRCC coordinates regional response efforts and implements local federal program support until a Joint Field Office is established.
- **Interagency Incident Management Group (IIMG).**
  The IIMG is a tailored group of senior federal interagency experts who provide strategic advice to the Secretary of Homeland Security during an actual or potential Incident of National Significance.
- **Joint Field Office (JFO).**
  A temporary federal facility established locally to provide a central point to coordinate resources in support of state, local, and tribal authorities.
- **Principal Federal Official (PFO).**
  A PFO may be designated by the Secretary of Homeland Security during a potential or actual Incident of National Significance. While individual federal officials retain their authorities pertaining to specific aspects of incident management, the PFO works in conjunction with these officials to coordinate overall federal incident management efforts.

### *Maintaining the National Response Plan*

- The Department of Homeland Security/Emergency Preparedness and Response (EP&R)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in close coordination with the DHS Office of the Secretary, will maintain the National Response Plan.
- The Plan will be updated to incorporate new Presidential directives, legislative changes, and procedural changes based on lessons learned from exercises and actual events.

**Emergency Management Institute - FEMA On-line Introductory Course –IS-800 Provides an Introduction to the National Response Plan (NRP)** The FEMA Emergency Management Institute has the new IS-800 NRP Introduction course on-line. This course is available at no-cost at http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is800.asp  .

More information and the full text of the National Response Plan is available at:
http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/editorial/editorial_0566.xml    *Index*

## *IAIP Announces New Stadium and Large Gatherings Vulnerability Self-Assessment Tool*


Mariners Playoff Payoff © Bruce Becker 1999

The Department of Homeland Security on Jan 7th announced it had developed a computer-based system to help stadium managers improve security.

DHS' Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Directorate (IAIP) developed the online Vulnerability Self-Assessment Tool, or VSAT, along with the International Association of Assembly Managers. It helps stadium managers find gaps in their security programs and helps them compare security plans with other managers around the country. The system was modeled after a similar tool used by the Transportation Security Administration to identify potential security problems at airports.
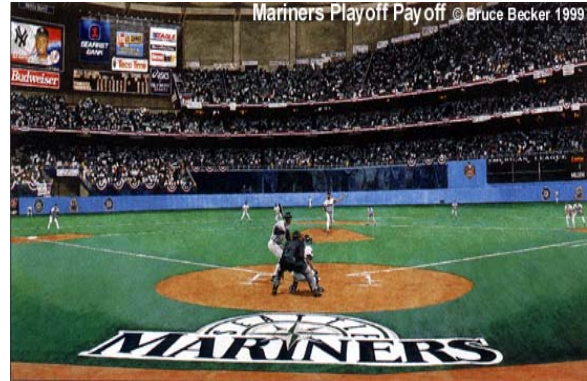
"We recognized and listened to the security needs of stadium owners and operators, leading us to create a resource tool that could identify best practices and allow them to better assess their own security plans and any potential vulnerabilities," said Frank Libutti, the outgoing undersecretary for IAIP in a prepared statement. "Our goal is to encourage stadium managers to integrate this tool into their standard planning process and use it throughout the year."

The current system is designed for assessing security at about 400 stadiums with more than 30,000 seats. The system will be expanded later this year so it can be used by arena, convention center and performing arts center owners and managers. There are a significant amount of large and smaller events forums around the state that will benefit from the VSAT when fully open to venues below 30,000 seats.

The self-assessment is a user-friendly tool that focuses on seven key areas that include topics relating to information security, physical assets, communication security and personnel security. When finished with the self-assessment a user can print out a comprehensive report that can be updated as time progresses. The report focuses on measuring the effectiveness of the facility's current security plan and providing best practices for implementing future improvements to the facility's security program. Facility owners can chose to submit their information to DHS and will then be given the ability to compare their security practices to other venues across the country. All information provided to DHS is confidential to the facility and will not be made available to other parties.

DHS officials said that information shared with the department as well as corresponding reports would be kept confidential and not shared with other parties.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) Directorate is the point of contact for the VSAT stadium tool. Information is also available with the IAAM Center for Venue Management Studies on +1 972-906-7441 or http://www.iaam.org

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### *U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Homeownership Alliance Release Emergency Preparedness Guide for Homeowners*

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge on January 26th joined with Homeownership Alliance President Rick Davis and Habitat for Humanity International Vice President Tom Jones to release the *Emergency Preparedness Guide*, a valuable new resource for homeowners.  The guide, unveiled during an event at Habitat for Humanity International's "Congress Building America" home in Washington, D.C., is the result of a collaborative effort between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Homeownership Alliance.

"The *Emergency Preparedness Guide* gives homeowners practical measures they can take now to prepare themselves, their families, and their homes for any possible emergencies," said Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge. "We are pleased to join the Homeownership Alliance and Habitat for Humanity in this important effort."

The Homeownership Alliance produced the *Emergency Preparedness Guide* and will distribute copies of it through the local offices of the National Association of Realtors (NAR).  Local NAR offices will include the guide in their closing day materials for new homeowners.  In addition, the Alliance will provide Habitat for Humanity International with copies of the *Emergency Preparedness Guide* to distribute to its new homeowners.

The publication, which is based on the recommendations of the Department of Homeland Security's *Ready* campaign, outlines the simple steps homeowners can take to prepare for an emergency.  The guide includes information on:
- Emergency supplies
- Effective emergency plans for families
- Various threats homeowners may face
- Resources available to homeowners through DHS, the Homeownership Alliance and local government and community officials

The *Emergency Preparedness Guide* is the latest effort by Homeland Security's *Ready* campaign, to encourage Americans to prepare for potential terrorist attacks and other emergencies.  *Ready* and its Spanish language version *Listo* ask individuals to do three key things: get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, and be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and their appropriate responses.

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*Launched in February 2003 by Homeland Security and the Ad Council, the Ready campaign is designed to educate and empower individuals to prepare for and respond to potential terrorist attacks and other emergencies. The goal of the campaign is to get Americans involved and, ultimately, to increase the level of basic preparedness across the nation. Since its launch, more than 210 million people have seen or read about Ready and its website has received over 1.8 billion hits.  Individuals interested in receiving a "Get Ready Now" brochure may call 1-800-BE-READY or visit www.Ready.gov for more information.*

## *Homeland security announces plans to test radio frequency technology at land borders to include Pacific Highway and Peace Arch in Washington State*

Asa Hutchinson, Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security for the United States Department of Homeland Security, announced on Jan 25th that US-VISIT is continuing to improve the border management system by planning tests of radio frequency (RF) technology at the U.S. land border.

"We are driven by a vision of the way our borders can and should operate in the future, and that future is getting closer and closer with every layer of US-VISIT we deploy," said Under Secretary Hutchinson.  "Through the use of radio frequency technology, we see the potential to not only improve the security of our country, but also to make the most important infrastructure enhancements to the US land borders in more than fifty years.  Working with our border partners, we intend to see that it's done in the right way and at the right pace," Hutchinson continued.

The technology will be tested at a simulated port this spring.  By July 31, 2005, the testing will begin at the ports of Nogales East and Nogales West in Arizona; Alexandria Bay in New York; and, Pacific Highway and Peace Arch in Washington.  The testing or "proof of concept" phase is expected to continue through the spring of 2006.

The optimal technology will allow for a unique and automatic identifier issued to pedestrians and visitors crossing in vehicles.  The benefits of deploying RF technology at the land border allows for the automatic recording of visitors' arrival and departure.  The test of this technology is designed to occur in multiple ports that illustrate various weather and traffic conditions.

At land ports of entry, US-VISIT entry procedures are already expediting the inspection time at the secondary inspection area.  The entry procedures are now operational at the 50 busiest land ports of entry, 115 airports and 15 seaports, and more than 17.5 million foreign visitors have been processed through US-VISIT without adversely impacting wait times. Because of US-VISIT biometric technology, the United States has arrested or denied admission to more than 407 people.

The goals of US-VISIT are to enhance the security of our citizens and visitors; facilitate legitimate travel and trade; ensure the integrity of our immigration system; and protect the privacy of our visitors.

US-VISIT is a continuum of security measures that begins overseas and continues through entry and exit.  Experience has shown that the US-VISIT enrollment process is fast, easy to understand and simple for visitors.

### What is Radio Frequency Identification Technology?

Radio frequency (RFID) identification technology refers to wireless systems that allow a device to read information contained in a wireless device or "tag" – from a distance without making any physical contact or requiring a line of sight between the two. It provides a method to transmit and receive data from one point to another.

RFID technology has been commercially available in one form or another since the 1970s. It is now part of our daily lives and can be found in car keys, highway toll tags and security access cards, as well as in environments where bar code labeling, which requires physical contact or a line of sight, is impractical or less effective. RFID has established itself in a wide range of markets including livestock identification and automated vehicle identification systems because of its ability to track moving objects.

There is no one definitive "RFID technology," but, rather, an enormous range of technical solutions that vary in their complexity and cost, depending upon the functionality, packaging, and applications for which they are used.

In its simplest form in common use today, a "passive" RFID system works as follows: an RFID reader transmits via its antenna an electromagnetic radio frequency signal to a passive RFID tag. The reader receives information back from the tag and sends it to a computer that controls the reader and processes the information that has been retrieved from the tag. Passive tags do not have batteries and operate using the energy they receive from signals sent by a reader.

### Application of RFID Technology to US-VISIT

US-VISIT is exploring the use of RFID technology as a tool that will better enable the program to fulfill its goals, which are to enhance the security of our citizens and visitors, facilitate legitimate travel and trade to and from the United States, ensure the integrity of our immigration system and protect the privacy of our visitors. RFID technology can improve the ability to match entries to exits without impacting processing time at the land borders and record arrivals and departures of a visitor in pedestrian and vehicle lanes – rapidly, accurately and reliably. It will also allow US-VISIT to detect a visitor's tag and provide the primary inspection process with information and a mechanism for establishing an accurate and timely record of exits without slowing a traveler through the process. Finally, RFID can also provide solutions that are not invasive and that protect the privacy of visitors.

As US-VISIT moves toward improving the automated entry-exit system at the nation's land border ports of entry, RFID technology offers a potential solution for an entry-exit operation that better facilitates legitimate travel and trade.

### Protecting Privacy and Health Considerations

US-VISIT will assure that our visitors' information is always protected. The RFID technology used by US-VISIT will safeguard sensitive information. The tags will not include visitors' biographic or biometric information. Rather, they will contain only a serial code that links to a visitors' information securely stored in databases used by US-VISIT. It will also be tamper-proof and difficult to counterfeit. There are many other layers of defense to prevent information being used incorrectly including:

- No personal information will be included on the tag
- Information on the tag cannot be changed
- The tag will only be activated once officially issued
- Personal information is only processed over secure communication paths

For more information, visit www.dhs.gov/us-visit or contact Kimberly Weissman or Anna Hinken 202-298-5200

## *Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program 2005 Fire Grants*

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program posted today the initial schedule of applicant workshops for the 2005 Fire Grants. This year, the Congress has appropriated over $600M specifically for Fire Grants. The application period is tentatively scheduled for March 7 to April 8.

Potential applicants and interested parties can view the schedule, as well as other fire grant program information, at www.firegrantsupport.com. In the coming days and weeks, the AFG Program expects to revise and update the schedule, as new locations are added or currently scheduled workshops are amended. Potential applicants are encouraged to check the AFG website from time to time to verify information in the schedule. Requests for additional workshop locations should be made to one of your AFG regional representatives. Regional contacts and telephone numbers are also available at www.firegrantsupport.com.

The fire grants for this year are very similar to those from last year. There is little change. One change is that the Congress has directed the program office to award a limited number of grants (on a competitive basis) to Emergency Medical Service (EMS) organizations that are not affiliated with a fire department and that provide EMS in areas not covered by a fire department.

The AFG program office, in addition to updates of the schedule, plans in the near future to post a copy of the PowerPoint presentation used at the workshops; Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 Program Guidance; frequently asked questions (FAQ's), and; a link to the online tutorial for the FY2005 application. All of these will help an applicant submit a competitive application for the FY 2005 fire grants. In FY2004, the online tutorial was especially helpful for applicants, and received over 80,000 individual visits.

Questions about the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program may be directed by electronic mail to firegrants@dhs.gov, or you may call the toll free number at 1-866-274-0960.

The Region X AFGP Points of Contact are shown below. Please contact these individuals for workshops and AFGP information. **Region 10 - AK, ID, OR, WA**

**Brian Ipsen**
bipsen@mcking.com
Ph: 425-487-4797

**Mary Corso**
mcorso@mcking.com
Ph: 360-754-4941
Cell: 360-701-1354

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## Commercial Driver License
## Hazardous Materials Endorsement (HME)
## Frequently Asked Questions

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*Currently there are 175,000 Washington State Drivers with Commercial Licenses and 40,000 have hazardous materials endorsements.*

*With the HAZMAT Threat Assessment Program beginning nation-wide in January of 05 you may have questions and Washington DOL has the answers.  An excellent comprehensive resource is the Washington DOL website at http://www.dol.wa.gov/ds/cdl.htm*

*What is the TSA HAZMAT Threat Assessment Program and who is impacted?* The USA PATRIOT Act requires all drivers who transport hazardous materials to undergo a security threat assessment. As a result, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) developed the HAZMAT Threat Assessment Program to conduct background checks, and an immigration check on any individual who wants to apply for, renew, or transfer a hazardous materials endorsement (HME) on their commercial driver's license (CDL). More information can be found at http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?content=0900051980028ee5.

*When does this program go into effect?* Beginning January 31, 2005, all first-time HME applicants must undergo the security assessment, which includes:

- Completing the new national HME application online at www.HAZPRINTS.com, or by phone at 1-877-429-7746 (note: the website and telephone number will be operational January 31, 2005),
- Visiting a TSA-approved location site to get fingerprinted, and providing proof of passing the HME knowledge test and photo-identification from the Department of Licensing.

By May 31, 2005, all renewals and state-to-state transfers must undergo the same process.

*Why does the TSA website say that March 31 is the date when fingerprints will be required for CDL HME renewals?* March 31, 2005 is the earliest date that TSA will accept fingerprints and threat assessment applications for CDL HME renewals. Washington DOL will not require TSA threat assessment results on renewals or state-to-state transfers until May 31, 2005.

*What other federal background checks will be accepted by TSA for the purpose of obtaining a HME?* TSA is currently not accepting any other federal background check for the purpose of qualifying a commercial driver for a HME. TSA is considering the acceptance of other background checks as a potential policy change in the future.

*When and how often do current CDL HME holders need to be fingerprinted and complete the TSA background check?* The CDL and HME are valid until the expiration date on the license. A background records check and fingerprinting must be completed and approved before license renewal can occur. The TSA threat assessment, including fingerprinting is required every five years with each CDL HME renewal cycle.

*How long will it take to complete the process, start to finish?* When the program starts, HME holders will be notified approximately 90 days prior to the expiration of their CDL. HME holders must begin the threat assessment no later than 30 days prior to their driver license expiration date. Applicants

should receive the TSA threat assessment results by mail within 30 days of making application to TSA.

***Where do I go to get fingerprinted?*** DOL is partnering with Integrated Biometric Technology (IBT), a vendor hired by TSA to act as the TSA Agent. IBT will provide several locations throughout the state for CDL HME applicants to submit applications, fingerprints, and threat assessment fees. TSA plans to have TSA Agent presence in Washington State by January 31, 2005, and to be fully operational by May 1, 2005. A complete list of TSA Agent locations will be available at the TSA agent website www.HAZPRINTS.com or by calling the TSA agent at 1-877-429-7746. (The website and telephone number will be operational January 31, 2005.)

***How much will the background records check and fingerprinting cost and who is responsible for paying?*** The background records check and fingerprint fees will total $94. The driver, or his or her employer, is responsible for paying all fees collected by TSA for the background records check and fingerprint collection.

***What if I refuse to submit to the background records check or fingerprinting?*** If you refuse or fail to complete the background records check, you are ineligible for a HME. You will be prohibited from transporting hazardous materials until the background records check is approved and the HME is added to your CDL.

***Can I transport hazardous materials while the background records check is underway?*** Current HME holders whose license is valid while the background records check is being conducted may continue transporting hazardous materials. Beginning January 31, 2005, first time HME applicants will be prohibited from transporting hazardous materials until DOL receives notice from TSA that the driver is eligible.

***Can I get an exemption from fingerprinting and the background records check?*** No. All drivers required to have a CDL to transport hazardous materials will be required to be fingerprinted and complete a background records check in order to be issued a HME. Commercial drivers who wish to have a HME, but believe they may not meet the qualifying criteria can request a waiver from TSA at any time. The TSA waiver process is described at the TSA website http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?content=0900051980028ee5 .

***What does it cost to surrender a HME?*** If your CDL is not up for renewal, and you fail to meet the TSA qualifying criteria to have a HME, you may surrender the HME to the nearest driver licensing office at no cost. If the driver license is due to expire within the next three months, the current renewal fee of $45 will be due.

***How early can I renew my CDL?*** Drivers may renew their CDL up to three months prior to their driver license expiration date.

***Will employers be informed that a driver is not eligible to transport hazardous materials?*** No, not directly. TSA determines the driver's eligibility for a HME and then notifies DOL whether the driver may or may not be issued a HME. DOL updates a driver's driving record with the results of the TSA background check (i.e. eligible or not eligible). If an employer requests a driver's abstract driving record, it will then indicate whether a driver is eligible or not eligible to transport HAZMAT.

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## *Washington Citizen Corps Update News*

Washington currently has a state Council through the Commission for National & Community Service and 50 County/Local/Tribal Citizen Corps Councils which serve 5,774,049 people or 94 % of Washington state's population.

Washington State has received a special grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to revise the Community Emergency Response Training curriculum to address individuals with special needs.  We will be hosting our first pilot course April 25- 29, 2005.

There will be a statewide Citizen Corps Program meeting March 8, 2005 in Lacey, Washington.

For more information on Washington State Citizen Corps please contact Karin Frinell-Hanrahan at 360.725.5290 or via e-mail at Karin.Frinell-hanrahan@ofm.wa.gov.


## *The Launch of Fire Corps*

In December 2004 the Department of Homeland Security, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the International Association of Fire Fighters, and the International Association of Fire Chiefs announced the launch of Fire Corps.  Fire Corps promotes the use of citizen advocates to enhance the capacity of resource-constrained fire and rescue departments at all levels.

Fire Corps provides resources to assist fire and rescue departments in creating opportunities for citizen advocates and promotes citizen participation.

Fire Corps is funded through DHS and is managed and implemented through a partnership between the National Volunteer Fire Council, the International Association of Fire Fighters, and the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

A Fire Corps Program is any fire service affiliated organization that utilizes citizen advocates who will assist your fire organization in non-operational tasks.  These can be administrative, public education and outreach or other tasks as part of the larger local Citizen Corps preparedness initiative.

If you utilize volunteers in your Fire Service please visit the Fire Corps web site at **www.firecorps.org** and register your organization.


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## *Washington Statewide Homeland Security Strategic Plan*

Work is complete on the planned FY2005 updates to the Washington Statewide Homeland Security Strategic Plan.  The plan will be posted to the Washington Military Department Emergency Management Homeland Security website http://www.emd.wa.gov/site-general/wahsas/wa-hsas-idx.htm as an interim plan due to the DHS recent announcement that the FY06 SHSGP will require state strategies to be changed to reflect NRP implementing guidance.  The NRP guidance has not been finalized and will not be provided to the states until March 31, 2005.  We do not anticipate widespread changes because the revisions already include and reflect elements of the NRP implementation that we could anticipate.  Tentatively the NRP guidance will potentially require an additional objective within the strategic plan to reflect DHS specifics.

Statewide coordinating leads have completed their initiatives update to show the current status of the Washington Statewide Homeland Security Strategic Plan.  The updates are as of Dec 31, 2004.  The update reports can be seen in two formats; a) Balanced Scorecard that includes the baseline assessment, key performance indicators, coordinating lead and current status, and b) Current Status Summary which is an abbreviated report of the current status only.  Both reports can also be found on the EMD website at the link shown above.

The Washington Statewide Committee on Homeland Security is conducting committee strategic planning on March 2$^{nd}$ and will be discussing the strategic plan current status, and committee/sub-committee goals and objectives.

For more information or to provide recommendations for the Washington Statewide Homeland Security Strategic Plan please contact: Nancy Bickford, Washington Military Department, (253) 512-7712 or Nancy.Bickford@mil.wa.gov

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## *State Homeland Security Information E-Mail Distribution List and Newsletter Information*

The Washington Military Department distributes daily the Homeland Security information provided to the Washington Homeland Security Advisor from a variety of sources to include the Department of Homeland Security.  If you would like to join this distribution list please e-mail Nancy Bickford at: nancy.bickford@mil.wa.gov  or call (253) 512-7712.

For comments, recommendations or contributions to this newsletter please contact: Nancy Bickford, WA Military Department, (253) 512-7712, Nancy.Bickford@mil.wa.gov.  Copies of this newsletter are available on the Military Department Emergency Management Division website at http://emd.wa.gov and click on the Homeland Security button.

Homeland Security publications and newsletters are available on the Washington State Emergency Management website at: http://emd.wa.gov/site-general/wahsas/wa-hsas-idx.htm

Published every two months (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, and Dec) articles may be contributed to Nancy Bickford, WA Military Department, HLS Strategic Planner, (253) 512-7712, Nancy.Bickford@mil.wa.gov for publishing.  The due date for articles is the 15th of the month the newsletter will be published in.

## *Acronyms Used in This Newsletter*

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| | |
|---|---|
| AFG | Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (DHS) |
| ASI | America's Shield Initiative (DHS) |
| BTS | Border and Transportation Security (DHS) |
| CBP | Customs and Border Patrol (DHS) |
| CDC | U.S. Center for Disease Control |
| CDL | Commercial Drivers License |
| CERT | Community Emergency Response Teams |
| CHS | Committee on Homeland Security |
| CI | Critical Infrastructure |
| C-MANPADS | Counter-MAN Portable Air Defense Systems (DHS) |
| CMSD | Crew Member Self-Defense Training |
| CSI | Container Security Initiative |
| C-TPAT | Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (DHS) |
| DEM | Director of Emergency Management |
| DEMO | Demonstration |
| DHS | U.S. Department of Homeland Security |
| DOH | Department of Health (Washington State) |
| DOL | Department of Licensing (Washington State) |
| DNDO | Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DHS) |
| EMD | Emergency Management Division |
| EMS | Emergency Medical Services |
| EP&R | Emergency Preparedness & Response (DHS) |
| EOC | Emergency Operations Center |
| FAA | Federal Aviation Administration |
| FAMS | Federal Air Marshal Service |
| FAQ | Frequently Asked Questions |
| FBI | Federal Bureau of Investigation (U.S.) |

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|---|---|
| FFDO | Federal Flight Deck Officers |
| FEMA | Federal Emergency Management Agency |
| FY | Fiscal Year |
| HAZMAT | Hazardous Materials |
| HF | High Frequency |
| HHS | U.S. Department of Health and Human Services |
| Hi-SOC | High Speed Operational Connectivity (DHS) |
| HME | Hazardous Materials Endorsement |
| HSDN | Homeland Secure Data Network (DHS) |
| HSOC | Homeland Security Operations Center (DHS) |
| HSPD | Homeland Security Presidential Directive |
| IAIP | Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (DHS) |
| IIMG | Interagency Incident Management Group (Federal) |
| IPSC | CHS Infrastructure Protection Sub-Committee |
| ISC | Information Sharing and Collaboration Program (DHS) |
| JFO | Joint Field Office (Federal) |
| KR | Key Resource (Infrastructure) |
| LETPP | Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program |
| ODP | Office of Domestic Preparedness (DHS) |
| OPM | Office of Personnel Management (DHS) |
| NAR | National Association of Realtors |
| NIMS | National Incident Management System |
| NIMSCAST | National Incident Management System Capability Assessment Tool |
| NRCC | National Response Coordination Center |
| NRP | National Response Plan |
| OIC | Office of Interoperability and Compatibility |
| PFO | Principle Federal Official |
| PHEPR | Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Program |
| PPE | Personal Protective Equipment |
| RDT&E | Research, Development, Test and Evaluation |
| RF | Radio Frequency |
| RFID | Radio Frequency Identification Technology |
| RHSCD | Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Districts |
| RRCC | Regional Response Coordination Center (Federal) |
| SCO | Office of Screening Coordination and Operations (DHS – BTS) |
| SERT | Student Emergency Response Team |
| SHSGP | State Homeland Security Grant Program |
| SLGCP | State and Local Coordination and Preparedness (DHS) |

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|---|---|
| S&T | DHS Science and Technology Directorate |
| SWAT | Special Weapons and Tactics |
| TSA | U.S. Transportation Security Agency |
| TTT | Train the Trainer (Classes) |
| USCG | U.S. Coast Guard |
| VSAT | Vulnerability Self-Assessment Tool (IAIP for Stadiums and Large Venues) |
| WASPC | Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs |
| WMD | Weapons of Mass Destruction |
| WSEMA | Washington State Emergency Management Association |
| WSHLSR | Washington State Homeland Security Regions |